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WETTEST AUCTION IN WORLD HERE

\$25,000,000 in Seized Liquor
Will Be Sold by Uncle Sam.

EXCLUSIVE BIDS ONLY
Hospitals, Druggists and
Other Privileged Folk
May Buy.

COPS ALSO PLAN SALE
They Have a Big Stock, but
Not of Such Guaranteed
Quality.

Within the next thirty days "Big Tom" McCarthy, who marshals for Uncle Sam in these parts, will elevate himself upon a rostrum of whiskey cases and barrels to deliver a little speech like this:

"Ladies and gentlemen, as auctioneer for the United States Government of wines and liquors seized under the Volstead act, I call your attention to the choice goods you may note under my feet and roundabout—very superior booze, tested for proof and quality by our own scientists. Let us begin with this case of Scotch, whose square face bottles are decorated with a label of thrilling recollection. What am I offered? Do I hear a bid?"

Don't get unduly stirred by this. Build no hopes upon the event to come. It means absolutely nothing in the life of the ordinary citizen. John Smith nor Lacy Cohen has no more chance of attending Big Tom's auction party at the Knickerbocker Warehouse in First street, just off the Bowery, than he has to open an old time saloon. The proletariat is barred. The rich are in no better case. If a man had a million dollars to invest in booze at the forthcoming auction sale of liquor which has been seized by Uncle Sam's liquor sleuths in this city since the enforcement act went into effect it would do him no good.

The only bidders will be persons duly licensed to deal in alcohol or to have it in their possession—wholesale and retail druggists, manufacturers, hospitals. They will attend Marshal McCarthy's party and will obtain good bargains, but for the common herd, the mass of individuals tight in prohibition's grip, there is the role of spectator and auditor only.

McCarthy Auctioneer.
Ernest P. Langley, Chief Enforcement Agent for the Government in New York City, is waiting upon Prohibition Commissioner Kramer for authority to authorize the sale, and Marshal McCarthy, under the law, must be auctioneer.

"I am still waiting for instruction as to what to do with the immense amount of confiscated liquors, wines and beers that we have on hand," said Langley yesterday. "Under the provisions of the Volstead act the stuff may be disposed of at the discretion of the Government. It may be destroyed, but there is no mandate about that. It can be sold if, in the opinion of the Attorney-General and the Prohibition Commissioner, sale is within the spirit of the law."

"I expect within the next thirty days to arrange for a big auction sale, likely at the warehouse, where most of the liquor that has been seized in New York since prohibition went into effect has been stored. There is so much of it on hand that space is clogged and it is necessary to get rid of it. Some will doubtless be given away. By order of the Federal Court three barrels of whiskey were sent gratis the other day to an up-State hospital, and I imagine that we will donate thousands of gallons to hospitals here in the city."

"But an immense amount can be sold and should bring in a tidy return to the public treasury. We have stuff valued at from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 on hand. It is interesting to survey the character of these seizures: 33,721 cases, mostly of whiskey, but including considerable gin, much of it of fine quality, old bonded goods; 5,132 barrels, of which the same can be said, and which includes, too, a good deal of wine of domestic manufacture; 613 demijohns, which I offer no guarantee about, questionable stuff, lots of it; 765 five gallon cans of alcohol, the kind of stuff that fake whiskey is made of; 2,500 bottles, containing liquor of every imaginable sort; 174 kegs, whiskey and gin largely;

459 trunks, grabbed from bootleggers and indiscreet citizens; 16 drums, large containers of alcohol; 3 pushcarts, taken in illegal sports; 235 suitcases, also obtained from the bootlegging fraternity and from citizens who thought they were going to punch a hole in the law; 30 baskets, more bootlegging stuff; 462 packages, all sorts, a good gamble for the speculative buyer; 90 crates, 30 stills, 213 automobiles, grabbed under the law that outlaws a car carrying illegally transported booze, and 11 horses and wagons, seized for the same reason. McCarthy should have a pleasant task getting rid of all this.

Hopes for \$5,000,000.

"It's hard to say what can be got for all this. We figure that the seizures are worth \$25,000,000. Well, if we can get \$5,000,000 at public sale Uncle Sam should be pleased. Lots of it is fine booze, old stuff. The kind we are grabbing nowadays is very bad—some distilled and home brewed—most of it. The whole problem of disposing of seizures has yet to be worked out, but it will be settled soon on opinion and rulings from the Attorney-General and the Prohibition Commissioner."

No sale has been planned by Sheriff Knott who, under the State law, eventually becomes the custodian of liquor seized by the police. Commissioner Enright, puzzled about what can be done with the barrels and cases or bottles that are now cluttering up the station houses and storage places, has asked the Corporation Counsel to submit an opinion. April alone the police seized \$10,000,000 worth of outlay booze, the activity of thousands of rum hunters producing greater results, naturally, than the labor of the small squad employed by the Federal Government here. Enright's men have made 3,000 arrests, but nobody has had to go to jail and Grand Jurors have displayed a disposition to look askance at severe enforcement.

Disposal of confiscated booze is held up mainly because of the fact that cases against the former owners or possessors of the liquor have not been disposed of. It is difficult for either Federal or city authorities to get rid of seizures until the courts determine the guilt of individuals. Some of the stuff may have to be returned to the owners, and it would be exceedingly awkward if Marshal McCarthy or Sheriff Knott acted too previously.

Police Seek Opinion.
It is desirable to learn also just what steps may properly be taken by officials responsible for disposal of seized liquors. Within two or three days an opinion will be rendered to the Police Department by George P. Nicholson, Assistant Corporation Counsel. Mr. Nicholson said yesterday he was mulling over various points of the problem and was trying to work out a legal and sensible procedure. In the case of the Federal authorities similar instructions are awaited from Washington.

All hands agree that much of the confiscated stuff will be destroyed. It will be destroyed because it is a menace to health. It is poisonous. This product of cellars and back rooms will be poured down manholes as soon as the legal advisers give the word. There is a disposition both in the Federal enforcement office here and in Commissioner Enright's office to believe that liquor of pure quality should not be wasted—that it should be given to hospitals or to scientific institutions or sold to commercial concerns having licenses to sell or move it. In Washington representatives of the Anti-Saloon League have made a drive for destruction and have urged that the Volstead act be amended to make destruction mandatory.

Distillers and chemists say that it is not worth while to attempt to extract and save for scientific purposes the pure alcohol contained in the many thousands of gallons of seized beverages. It would cost too much. Grain alcohol can be manufactured new more cheaply than it could be segregated from the compound now stored in Federal warehouses and in the police stations.

Since the prohibition law went into effect in this city the total value of liquor seized by Federal agents and police up to yesterday is estimated at \$45,000,000.

BENSON NOT WORRYING OVER RUM ON U. S. SHIP

Says Report Is Piece of Foreign Propaganda.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., May 11.
Talk of liquor on the Shipping Board steamship Huron, alleged to have been "wet" from Montevideo to New York, is deliberate foreign propaganda to call attention to the fact that foreign ships are "wet" and American ships are "dry," in the opinion of Admiral Benson.

Admiral Benson stated to-night that he had no report of booze on the Huron and would pay no attention to the matter unless he received more direct testimony than newspaper reports, which he declares are all that he has seen on the subject. He indicated again that enforcement of the Volstead act was not one of his worries and that he had enough on his own account.

Prohibition Commissioner Kramer denied any official knowledge of wet goods of any kind on the Huron.

NEGRO ASSAILANT OF WOMAN SOUGHT

Posse Headed by Marshal
Thresh Swamp Around
Kenilworth, N. J.

All of the houses in the negro settlement on the edge of a swamp on the outskirts of Kenilworth, N. J., were being searched last night by the authorities of Union county for some trace of the negro who attacked Mrs. Frederick O'Brien, 32 years old, a tenant officer, yesterday morning on Tenth street and the Boulevard, about 200 yards from the school house in Kenilworth. Mrs. O'Brien, who is the mother of two children, was badly injured and was carried to her home.

Two school boys, August and William Schlager, heard Mrs. O'Brien moaning behind some bushes, where she had been thrown by the negro, and notified Marshal Alfred R. Vardaloe. Mrs. O'Brien was semi-conscious when the Marshal and a group of citizens reached her. Her clothing was torn and her face was cut. Dr. William Tilton of Elizabeth, who attended Mrs. O'Brien, said later that her body was covered with bruises and that she was in a serious condition.

Marshal Vardaloe obtained from Mrs. O'Brien a description of her assailant and organized a posse of citizens and hurried to the swamp, believing that the negro had tried to make for the security of the morass after attacking the woman. He was described as being about five feet ten inches high, and dressed in khaki trousers and a blue shirt.

SIVER-GOUIN MARRIAGE IN GREENWICH MAY 15

Justice Mead Says He Performed the Ceremony.

Records in Greenwich, Conn., showed yesterday that Shubel K. Siver, treasurer of the First Reformed Church in New Brunswick, N. J., who eloped with Miss Adele Gouin, a waitress, at the same time that almost \$6,000 in Liberty bonds belonging to the church disappeared, married Miss Gouin in Greenwich on May 8. Justice Mead performed the ceremony. Justice Mead said yesterday that Siver came to Greenwich on April 29 and obtained his license to marry the girl, making arrangements with the Justice to perform the ceremony five days later, that being the time that the Connecticut law requires must elapse between receiving the license and the performing of the ceremony.

When Siver applied for the license he produced an affidavit signed by Mrs. Katherine Gouin, the girl's mother, giving consent to the marriage, the girl being under age. In the application Siver swore that he was single. The Connecticut authorities have not yet taken any action against Siver.

WOMAN, 65, AND BOY SEIZED IN DRUG RAID

Value of Stuff Found Placed
as High as \$10,000.

Detectives under the command of Dr. Carleton Simon, Special Deputy Police Commissioner, went to an apartment in 240 North Eighth street, Brooklyn, last night and arrested Mrs. Camella Bachl, 65 years old, and Michael Allico, 17, of 236 North Eighth street. They were locked up at headquarters charged with having narcotics in their possession.

According to the detectives, they found hanging down an airshaft a bag containing thirty-four bottles of cocaine and two pounds of loose drugs in a closet. The vending value of the stuff, the police said, was between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Detectives Polakows and Cuhilke got on the trail of the woman earlier in the day when the former discovered a small bottle tucked away in Mike Jesus Aulic, 38 years old, and his associates last week for the purchase of a large quantity of drugs.

FEDERAL AGENTS SEIZE \$50,000 WINE STOCK

Rabbi Charged With Unlawful Trade in Liquor.

Federal prohibition officers took the center of the stage again yesterday in the enforcement of the liquor laws by a raid in which nearly \$50,000 worth of wine, brandies and champagnes were seized in a sacramental wine store at 1341 Fifth avenue, where the prohibition agents believe a brisk trade has been carried on.

The agents served Rabbi E. Felsin of 12 West 120th street, said to be proprietor of the store, and Herman Kalman, a clerk, with summonses to answer charges of selling and having liquor in their possession. The raid was headed by "Izzy" Elnstein, who obtained a warrant to search the store from United States Commissioner Hitchcock. In a rear room the agents found fifty barrels of wine and 250 cases of brandy and champagne.

Detectives Foster and Boyle of the Third Inspection district seized nine barrels of wine, brandy and bitters last night when they found concealed in the cellar of a saloon at 404 Eleventh avenue, a spectator. "You're under arrest," said Jocher to the two men. They cried out in Spanish. The door opened, disclosing Aulic with an automatic pistol. He fired. Kirley dodged the bullet, which cut a wound, not serious, along Jocher's head. Kirley turned, as he ducked, and fired three times at Aulic, each bullet hitting him in the chest. Aulic fled, tumbling down the stairs.

The other two Spaniards began firing. More than fifteen bullets were discharged. The room was wrecked. Conco was shot in the chest. Davila got a bullet wound in the head.

The outside detectives rushed to the basement door of the house and grabbed Aulic as he staggered out, revolver in hand. He died almost immediately. Further in the basement hall, was Conco. Upstairs were Jocher and Kirley, holding Davila. He and Conco were rushed to the Cumberland Street Hospital. Conco may die. Davila is seriously hurt.

THREE NEAR DEATH IN FIRE.

SARATOGA, May 11.—The residence of John K. Walbridge, published of the Daily Saratogian, was destroyed by fire early to-day, with a loss of \$25,000. Mr. and Mrs. Walbridge and a maid were rescued by firemen after a narrow escape.



Brooklyn
in 1852

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